Cites Ballistics Data

Attorney for Sirhan To Seek New Trial

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LOS ANGELES, Dec. 16 (UPI)—The attorney for Sirhan B. Sirhan said today he plans to file an appeal with the California State Supreme Court calling for reopening of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case on grounds of "new" ballistics information.

The attorney, Godfrey Isaac, said he would file a writ of error within the next few weeks and was hopeful it would lead to a new trial for Sirhan, now serving a life term for the 1968 murder of Kennedy.

However, the prosecutor in the case insisted that the evidence referred to is not new and the basic fact remains that many persons saw Sirhan shoot Kennedy.

Isaac's statement came after a demand Sunday by former Rep. Allard K. Lowenstein in New York that the Los Angeles district attorney's office reopen its investigation in light of what he said was new evidence that a second gun had been fired in the slaying.

District Attorney Joseph Busch told a news conference today there was no new ballistics information in the statement made by Lowenstein and that he did not intend to reopen the case unless Sirhan persuaded the courts to do so.

"The basic fact remains that a number of eyewitnesses — at close range — saw Sirhan Sirhan shoot Robert F. Kennedy and did not see anyone else fire a gun in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel on the night of June 5, 1968," Busch said.

Isaac said he had new information from Herbert McDonald, a New York criminologist and ballistics expert, that a bullet found in one of the other wounded victims came from a different gun than the one fired by Sirhan.